

Appl. No.: 09/944,694
Amtd. dated 01/13/2006
Reply to Official Action of November 1, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph 24 of the specification as follows:

[0024] FIG. 1 illustrates a flow chart 100 showing steps that may be performed in a method for providing network security in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In step 102, a plurality of network protocol packets 204 is received. A network protocol may be defined as a means of delivering data packets across a network to a program running on a remote system. Network protocol information may be implemented by a plurality of distinct headers. A network protocol packet 204 may include a network protocol header 402 and a plurality of network protocol data 404. The network protocol data 404 is associated with a first cryptographic protocol 302 and may include a first cryptographic protocol header ~~408~~406 and a first plurality of encrypted data 408. In an example embodiment of the present invention, the network protocol packet 204 may be an IP packet in which the network protocol header 402 is an IP header that contains information indicating that the network protocol data 404 is associated with ESP. In this case the cryptographic protocol header 406 may be an ESP header and the encrypted data 408 may be encrypted in accordance with ESP encryption rules. In another example embodiment of the present invention, the network protocol header 402 may be an IP packet in which the IP header contains information indicating that the network protocol data 404 is associated with TCP. In this case the cryptographic protocol header 406 may be a TCP header. The TCP header may use a port number to indicate that the encrypted data 408 includes a stream of Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) data that may be decrypted using SSL rules.